UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.3/49/21
25 November 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-ninth session
THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 99

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

Letter dated 21 November 1994 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you, in reference to the letter dated 27 October 1994 1/ from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations, and its annex, addressed to Your Excellency, of the following:

After the dissolution of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Republic of Macedonia has clearly distanced itself from all war options and has managed to stay away from ethnic conflicts and bloodshed. We have peacefully exercised our right of self-determination through a referendum and with the adoption of a constitution.

The army of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has withdrawn from the territory of the Republic of Macedonia with no incidents whatsoever.

The Republic of Macedonia is a peaceful and democratic society in which human rights are respected, a society that has given shelter to tens of thousands of refugees from the war-torn former Yugoslav Republics.

The Government of the Republic of Macedonia takes special pride in the fact that it has neither legally nor factually acted towards forceful expulsion of

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its own citizens or citizens of any other country, including those of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Under such circumstances, which are in full accordance with international standards of civilized behaviour, there has to be a serious misjudgement of the representative of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to claim "refugees" from the Republic of Macedonia in his country.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 99.

(Signed) Denko MALESKI
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative